

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 306

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETD, BC, BL

SUBJECT: COB REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT OF SUGAR SHIPMENT

REF: (A) STATE 46209, (B) STATE 31292, (C) LA PAZ 1203,

(D) LA PAZ 2763, (E) LA PAZ 2790

1. JOAQUIN AGUIRRE, PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORACION BOLIVIANO DE FOMENTO (CAF), VISITED THE EMBASSY APRIL 6 TO REITERATE BOLIVIA'S REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TARIFF TREATMENT FOR A 9,660 MT SHIPMENT OF REFINED SUGAR. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, IN MAY 1977 THE GOB SIGNED A SALES AGREEMENT WITH AMEROP DIVISION OF WESTWAY TRADING COMPANY FOR 9,660 MT OF REFINED SUGAR TO BE SHIPPED TO THE US FROM ARGENTINA BY NOVEMBER 15, 1977. HOWEVER, ARGENTINE SHIPMENTS RECEIVED PRIORITY, DELAYING THE BOLIVIAN SHIPMENT, WHICH ENTERED THE US AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1977 AND, THEREFORE, WAS SUBJECT TO THE NEW US TARIFFS. DEPARTMENT ADVISED (REFTEL A) A SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION WOULD BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR THE BOLIVIAN SUGAR ALONG THE LINES EARLIER GRANTED TO MALAWI.

2. MR. AGUIRRE HAS ADVISED US, BASED ON INFORMATION HE RECEIVED FROM BOLIVIA'S EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, THAT

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PRESIDENT CARTER WILL MAKE ANOTHER SUGAR IMPORT PROCLAMATION IN MID-APRIL. THIS PROCLAMATION, CBF BELIEVES WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO GRANT BOLIVIA'S REQUEST AND TO AVOID THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH A SEPARATE PROCLAMATION FOR BOLIVIA ALONE.

3. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE GOB SHOULD HAVE REALIZED

THAT THE DELAYED SUGAR SHIPMENT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE
NEW TARIFFS UNLESS ADVANCE ACTION WERE TAKEN AND THAT FOR
SIMPLE LACK OF INFORMATION IT FAILED TO DO THIS. HOWEVER,
WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNFORESEEN TRANSPORTATION
DELAY OF THE SUGAR SHIPMENT CREATED EXTENUATING
CIRCUMSTANCES. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE IN
THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF THE US AND BOLIVIA TO GRANT AN
EXCEPTION. WHILE THE \$600,000 DIFFERENCE IS RELATIVELY
SMALL TO THE US, IT IS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT FOR THE CBG.
BOLIVIA ALSO FACES A SERIOUS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM
IN 1978 (REFTEL C) AND EVERY BIT WILL HELP. APPROVAL OF THE
BOLIVIAN REQUEST WOULD BE A SMALL GESTURE OF US SUPPORT.
CONSEQUENTLY, THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER
INCLUDING IN ANY UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION A PROVISION
GRANTING SPECIAL TREATMENT TO THE BOLIVIAN SUGAR SHIPMENT.
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